

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A portable media player and rating apparatus, comprising:

a user-manipulable control dedicated for generating a signal indicating a user-supplied rating of a currently played media content in response to a user-supplied rating, the user-supplied rating corresponding to one of a plurality of predefined categories of preferences; and

a the portable media player comprising:

a memory device for storing media contents and a ratings list comprising a list of user supplied ratings associated with the stored media contents, and

~~a processor and a memory device, said processor~~ operatively connected to said user-manipulable control and to said memory device for selectively downloading and playing the stored media contents, for receiving the signal from said user-manipulable control, and for associating the user-supplied rating indicated by the signal with the currently played media content, ~~and said memory device including a dynamically updateable ratings list for storing a list of user-supplied ratings associated with media content, said memory device operatively connected to said processor for storing the user-supplied rating associated with the currently played media content in the ratings list~~, wherein said processor is further operable for ranking the media content in response to the user-supplied ratings in the ratings list and selectively downloading and playing media content in said memory based on the user-supplied ratings in the ratings list.

2. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein ~~said memory device further stores the media content and~~ said processor receives the signal from said user-manipulable control as said processor plays the media content stored in said memory device.

3. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein the user-manipulable control includes a switch having a plurality of depressible buttons, each of said plurality of depressible buttons corresponding to one of said plurality of predefined categories of preferences.

4. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said user-manipulable control includes a multi-position switch movable among different positions, each of said positions corresponding to one of said plurality of predefined categories of preferences.

5. (previously amended) The device of claim 4, wherein the multi-position switch includes a pivotable lever.

6. (previously amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the user-manipulable control is attachable to a portion of a headphone.

7. (previously amended) The device of claim 6, wherein said portion of a headphone includes a headphone cord.